COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF NEOTYPES FOR FOUR HEMIPTERAN SPECIES. Z.N.(S.) 1732

(see volume 23, pages 121–123)

By J. Péricart (*Montereau, France*)

Les remarques de M. I. M. Kerzhner, Académie des Sciences, Leningrad, U.R.S.S. attirent de ma part les commentaires suivants:

(1) Il faut considérer en effet *Lygaeus pygmaeus* Fall. et *Anthocoris lucorum* Fall. comme des synonymes *subjectifs* et non *objectifs*, ainsi qu'il résulte de la description de Fallén (1829).

La série de la collection Fallén communiquée par le Musée de Lund comprenait un ♂ et une ♀. Le ♂ est étiqueté " L. lucorum Fall " (sic) (probablement de la main de Zetterstedt, sec. Dr. Hugo Andersson, in litt.) et porte en outre un label rouge " Typ "; la ♀ ne porte aucun label. L'annulation de cette série typique, qui ne correspond pas à la description de 1829, semble nécessaire.

Il n'existe au Musée de Lund ni ailleurs aucun type de *L. pygmaeus* Fall.; la désignation d'un néotype pour cette espèce mal définie par rapport aux espèces voisines sera ultérieurement utile.

(2) Reuter a certainement misidentifié *Anthocoris nigrellus* Zett. et *Anthocoris nigricornis* Zett.; la solution proposée par M. Kerzhner pour résoudre les problèmes de nomenclature correspondant à l'actuel genre *Elatophilus* Reuter a pour inconvénient de modifier des noms en usage dans toutes les Faunes d'Hétéroptères européens parues depuis 80 ans; l'annulation des types de Zetterstedt concernés sauvegarderait la stabilité de la nomenclature.

(3) Compte tenu de ces remarques, je maintiens toutes les demandes exprimées dans ma requeste Z.N.(S.) 1732.

By R. C. Froeschner (*Smithsonian Institution*); J. L. Herring (*U. S. Department of Agriculture*)

We agree with Dr. Péricart's expressed desire to have continued the eighty years usage based on Reuter's 1884 Monograph.

We disagree with his concern about the specimens now in the Zetterstedt collection and his conclusion that Reuter may have misidentified Zetterstedt's and Fallén's species.

Reuter's 1871 (*Ofv. Vet. Akad. Forh.* 3 : 403–429) paper was not mentioned by Mr. Pericart. It has bearing on this problem. In it (p. 403) Reuter thanked Zetterstedt and Stål for permitting him to examine materials of the Anthocoridae. No record is given for the deposit of these individual specimens examined by Reuter; they may have been kept by Reuter. Be that as it may, he clearly diagnosed and redefined the species (pp. 417–419). These concepts are the same ones he used in his 1884 Monograph. In the latter paper he also fully diagnosed as separate species all the other names mentioned in the second paragraph of Dr. Péricart's appeal.

Long use of Reuter's works reveals him to be a meticulously careful worker. His 1884 Monograph is just one example of the permanency of his results—eighty years later it is still a clear-cut, definitive landmark. To accuse him of confusing so many forms so badly, even to not recognizing his own well-defined genus *Acompocoris*, is not logical. It is more logical to doubt the results of the unknown hands which subsequently manipulated the Zetterstedt collection. Preparatorial help of unknown competency could simply have matched specimen labels with the printed record without consideration of the diagnostic characteristics. The proven prudence of Reuter's work habits, the unknown handling of the collection subsequent to Zetterstedt's time, and the fact that Reuter received study material from Zetterstedt himself, combine to mitigate against assuming a Reuter error.

The only conclusions we can reach are: (1) the so-called " syntypes " in the Lund collection should be considered mislabelled or misidentified; (2) the specimens examined by Reuter apparently have been overlooked or lost; and (3) that if neotypes are needed, they should be selected from Reuter's material to insure continuity of the eighty years usage based on his 1884 Monograph.

FURTHER COMMENTS ON SUPPRESSION OF SOME NAMES IN THE FAMILY BELONIDAE (PISCES). Z.N.(S.) 1723

(see volume 22, pages 325–329 and volume 23, pages 149–154)

By Bruce B. Collette (*Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Ichthyological Laboratory, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*)

Additional comments are presented on several needlefish names that recently have been discussed in the *Bulletin* (Collette and Berry, 1966; Mees, 1966; Tortonese, 1967) and elsewhere (Mees, 1962, 1964; Collette and Berry, 1965) so that the Commission can have all the relevant material upon which to base its decision. Collette and Berry (1965) requested suppression of three names as *nomina oblita* under the provisions of Article 23 b. If action under the provisions of the 50-year rule is suspended, I believe it necessary to ask the Commission to suppress two names under the plenary powers. At least two of the names under discussion (*marina* and *crocodilus*) are of importance to parasitologists (working with copepods, trematodes, and cestodes) as well as to ichthyologists. The nomenclature of this family should be stabilized before completing manuscripts for an Atlantide Report (Collette and Parin, MS) and for " Fishes of the Western North Atlantic " (Collette MS). A summary of my opinions on the names for three species discussed by Collette and Berry (1966) and that for an additional species by Mees (1966) follows.

I. *Strongylura marina* (Walbaum)

Because it did not seem reasonable that a name totally unused for the 170 years after its description should replace the name usually used for the commonest species of western Atlantic needlefish, Collette and Berry (1966) applied to the Commission to suppress *houttuyni* in favour of *marina*, two names pertaining to the same species and described on the same page by Walbaum in 1792. The name *marina* is not only the name used by ichthyologists but is also the name used by parasitologists, for example by Linton in a series of papers on cestodes and trematodes from 1901 to 1940. Mees (1962) chose to ignore both provisions of Recommendation 24A—to " select the name that will best insure stability and universality of nomenclature " or, if neither name has this advantage, to " select the name that has precedence of position in the